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President Bush's Executive Order 13340 established a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force. MARAD's Great Lakes Region Director Doris J. Bautch, DOT's representative on the Great Lakes Regional Working Group, commented, "This is an important series of developments, and it's exciting that it's happening so quickly. The governors of the Great Lakes states have developed priority areas that they feel are important, and the collaboration has adopted those areas and established strategy teams to address them."



A Sea Lamprey, a species invasive to native fish of the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes constitute the largest freshwater system on earth, containing roughly 20 percent of the earth's fresh surface water. In addition to their natural beauty, the Great Lakes serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people; support the culture and life ways of native communities; form the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, and fishing; and provide food and recreational opportunities for millions of American and Canadian citizens.

"This is the largest formal collaboration of its kind focused on the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes Basin," commented Mike Leavitt, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Today, we are committing our collective organizations to protecting and improving this national treasure."

MARAD is participating in the issue-area strategy teams related to invasive species and sustainable development. The invasive species team will focus on transportation-related issues related to the spread of invasive species and ballast water management. The sustainable development team will focus on



Industrial pollution on Lake Superior

transportation, land use, and preservation practices; waterfront restoration; and economic viability as a function of environmental and natural resources protection.

For more information on the GLRC, visit <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/collaboration/index.html>

Upcoming Events

Ship Operations Cooperative Program's First 2005 Conference

Sponsored by the Maritime Protective Service
March 8-10, 2005
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Contact Kim Rester at (202) 366-0364
www.socp.org

NCBFAA's 2005 Annual Conference

"Complying with Government Initiatives: Defining Our New Role"
March 13-17, 2005
San Diego, CA
www.ncbfaa.org

Navy League of the United States' 2005 Sea-Air-Space Expo

March 22-24, 2005
Washington, DC
www.navyleague.org

AAPA's Annual Spring Conference

Washington, DC
April 4-6, 2005
(703) 684-5700

If you know of an upcoming event you would like published in the *MARAD Update*, please submit it to Ella Thomas at ella.thomas@marad.dot.gov.